



March  
1989

Co-ops Must Rise  
To Competitive  
Challenges

See Page 16

# Carolina Country<sup>®</sup>



CHAPEL HILL  
NC 27514



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Magnificent horses and excellent craftsmanship make the Southern States Percheron Hitch stand out in a crowd. That's why this award-winning team and their owners, the Lawrence family, are the perfect representatives for our Medallion Quality Horse Feeds®! There are lots of horse feeds out there, but the Medallion line from Southern States stands out as something special. Four different Medallion feed formulations offer the perfect blend of nutrients, minerals, and special ingredients for every stage of your horse's life. And Southern States continues research and improvement to make sure the Medallion line is the very best in the field.

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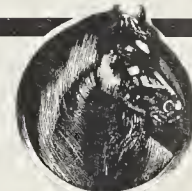




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# Co-ops To Defend "Articles of Faith"

*The following editorial was written by Bob Bergland, executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

Water has always been one of our most precious commodities and it is becoming more precious, more valuable every day. The wise development of water resources made possible the settlement of the West. Use of these resources will affect the future of this and other regions.

In the early days of America, our waterways were the highways of commerce and exploration. In certain areas they are still important cogs in the nation's transportation system. But President Theodore Roosevelt recognized that our rivers and streams had a much greater potential for use in bettering the lives of mankind and spurring the economy of a nation. He saw them as the generators of electric power for people who lived beyond the reach of profit-oriented power companies, and of reclaiming the land in the arid West for human enterprise and economic growth.

He set forth a policy based on the tenet that our country's rivers and streams belong to the public and, as such, they should be developed in the public interest. And it was Teddy Roosevelt who enunciated the policy that we have come to know as the "preference principle" in the sale of power from federal projects.

The decade of the '80s has seen an administration bent on destroying the great public policies established and protected over the past 80 years. The Reagan administration was determined to turn back the clock on history, sell off our great national assets—the dams and power facilities built by the government—without regard for what it would mean to millions of power users throughout the country. These efforts were unsuccessful because the cooperatives and others were determined to protect these rights.

As yet, we have no indication of what the new Bush administration's policies will be. But I do know that the National Rural Electric Coop-

erative Association will never agree to the "privatization" of our federal water projects, or any weakening of the preference principle. These are articles of faith and we shall not abandon that faith.

That is not to say that we do not recognize the legitimate needs of other water users. We always have. . . .

Some of the demands on water resources are for the traditional uses—navigation, flood control and irrigation—that were established when the projects were authorized and built in Missouri, Colorado, Columbia Basin, California's Central Valley, and in the Southeast and Southwest. Others are for municipal water, recreation, as well as fish, wildlife enhancement and environmental protection. All could result in the reduction of power availability and value and, therefore, must be examined critically.

We are going to be challenged in the 101st Congress, I believe, to defend the principles of preference and cost-based power as we haven't been for a long, long time. I believe we must vigorously defend our positions and insist, if the Congress in its wisdom decides to modify the purposes of the water projects, that the costs must be reallocated. If that should result in the loss of power to preference customers, it seems only reasonable to me that the government and its customers must agree in advance to replace the kilowatts of power that will be lost.

We recognize that over time the needs of a country change. But there are also needs that remain constant. In that context, I must say that we must not tolerate a policy that will contribute to furthering the depopulation of America's rural heartland, as a result of higher federal power rates and the curtailment of the federal power program.

On the other hand, I am convinced that improved management and use of our water resources can help reverse the tragic and forced migration from rural America to the already congested seaboard cities, where millions live without decent housing.





## EDITOR'S LETTER

# 1989 Carolina Country®

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Advertising that does not conform to these standards or that is deceptive or misleading is never knowingly accepted.

Should you encounter advertising that does not comply with these standards, please inform the editor at P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Dear Readers,

On pages 16 and 17, you'll find some interesting observations from Jim Hubbard regarding the achievements of North Carolina's electric cooperatives during his 10 years as chief executive officer of their statewide organization. He also describes his vision of what lies ahead for the co-ops amid a changing utility industry.

His comments were part of a lengthy interview with Contributing Editor Dan Cook.

As he closed one chapter and opened another in a rural electrification career that began in 1959, Hubbard offered a few further reflections regarding the co-ops' past and future in his final contribution to a newsletter that's mailed to directors, managers and staff at the state's 28 Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs).

He said, "I would classify what we have been about as good work. Good work builds. It is all we have to do that might make the slightest change in society. Good work adds to the sum of humanity. Good work pays ... in money ... in the coin of communion ... in the currency of satisfaction. It gives us pride in our talent and dedication. Good work makes us matter and it is also fun."

Referring to the challenges facing the EMCs in the years ahead, Hubbard said, "You must continue to choose which road the co-ops will travel and the number of choices will not become fewer or easier. But with choices can surely spell the difference between success and failure."

He added: "The architects of the rural electric dream in North Carolina planned well. As you continue to work a "good work" cooperatively—together—may you dedicate yourselves to the attainment of this admittedly ambitious, but wholly possible dream. Godspeed."

Best regards,

*Owen Bishop*

## Cover: "Tilda's Cabin" By Reidsville's Mel Steele

Our cover this month features a painting by Mel Steele of Reidsville. It's titled, "Tilda's Cabin." The painting is part of Steele's "Patchwork Trilogy," a series featuring quilts in various settings. Limited edition prints of this image and of the second painting in the series, "Sidewalk Sale," are already sold out. The third print is scheduled for release in late spring.

Steele, who grew up in Madison, has a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. In 1977, he returned to Rockingham County, where he works fulltime as an artist and commercial designer. He is a consumer-member of Davidson Electric Membership Corporation, Lexington.

For information about other Mel Steele paintings and prints, write or call Vermilion Graphics, P.O. Box 2539, Reidsville, NC 27320. Phone: (919) 342-3023.



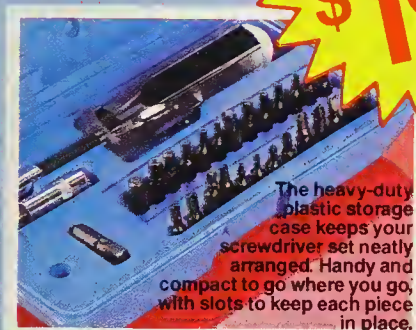
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- 4 Robertson Bits (S-0, S-1, S-2, S-3)
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## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE



### Historic Home and Garden Tour Slated For April 7-8 In New Bern

More than 20 restored homes and churches will be on display at the Spring Historic Homes and Garden Tour, April 7-8, in New Bern.

The tour will feature 11 churches and 13 homes—four of which are registered in the National Register of Historic Places. Also included is a visit to the Tryon Palace Garden, where over 30,000 tulips are expected to be in bloom.

Tickets for the tour are \$10 for adults—\$12 the day of the tour. Groups of 25 will receive a 10 percent discount.

For more information, contact the New Bern Spring Historic Homes and Garden Tour at P.O. Box 207, New Bern, NC 28560. Phone: (919) 638-8558 or 633-6448.

### *Jim Graham Cited By Ag Fair Group*

North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham has been cited for his contributions to the fair industry. Graham received the second Holmes-McBride Humanitarian Award, which is given annually to an individual who has contributed substantially to North Carolina agricultural fairs.

The award is given by the N. C. Association

of Agricultural Fairs.

The first recipient of the award was Arthur K. Pitzer, manager of the Anderson Fair in Anderson, S. C. Pitzer, formerly manager of the North Carolina State Fair, made the presentation to Graham at the fair association's yearly meeting.

"Of course I'm honored to receive the Holmes-McBride Award," Graham said. "But the real credit for

fair contributions should go to the hard working people across this state who are involved every day with agricultural fairs. I also commend my staff, especially Gene Carroll, for assistance to the fair business. He keeps agriculture in agricultural fairs."

Carroll is state administrator of county fairs with the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

Graham is a former manager of the Dixie Classic Fair in Winston-Salem and has put the N. C. State Fair on a paying basis.

Regulation of county agricultural fairs and operation of the State Fair are functions of the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

### *Church Slates Convention In Rocky Mount*

A one-day Christian Resources Consumer Convention will be held April 22 at the Opportunities Industrialization Center in Rocky Mount.

Sponsored by the Gospel of Love Church, the convention will feature guest speakers and discussing various aspects of church ministry.

For more information, contact the Gos-

pel of Love Church at P.O. Box 1063, Pine-tops, NC 27864. Phone: (919) 827-4229.

### *Events To Honor Confederate Dead*

Confederate Memorial Weekend will be marked with special events May 7 at Oakwood Cemetery and Capitol Square in Raleigh.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the cemetery, where 2,600 Confederate troops are buried. Music will be provided by the 11th Regimental Band from Fayetteville. Troops of the North Carolina Battalion, a volunteer group of Confederate reenactors, will act as honor guard for the service. Raleigh personality J. C. Knowles will deliver the keynote address.

The service will be sponsored by the North Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Johnston Pettigrew Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

A parade through downtown Raleigh will begin at 2 p.m. and proceed to the old State Capitol,

where a memorial service will pay tribute to the 125,000 Tar Heels who fought and died in the Civil War. The 11th Regimental Band and the N. C. Battalion will participate in the parade. The service will be sponsored by the N. C. Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

For more information, write or call Sons of the Confederate Veterans, P.O. Box 1896, Raleigh, NC 27602. Phone: (919) 266-1861.

### *History Museum's Quilts On View Through June 18*

More than 30 quilts, dating from the 1830s to the present, will be displayed through June 18 at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh.

The exhibition is the second part of a two-part program on Tar Heel quilts. An earlier exhibit showcased quilts on loan from private citizens. However, the current exhibit features quilts from the museum's collection.

The exhibit includes such quilts as the "Pictorial Quilt" from



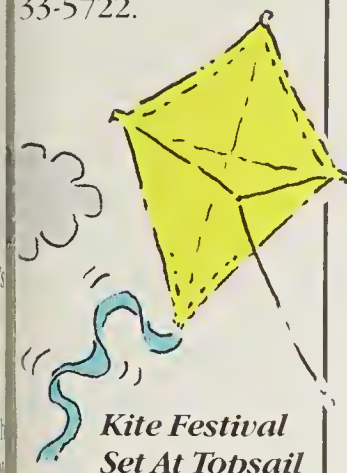


## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

Alamance County—  
depicting scenes from  
American History.

Another selection,  
from an unknown  
Moore County quilter,  
depicts the states that  
voted for Franklin D.  
Roosevelt in the pres-  
idential elections of  
1932, 1936 and 1940.

For more informa-  
tion on the exhibit,  
contact the N.C.  
Museum of History at  
109 E. Jones St.,  
Raleigh, NC 27611.  
Phone: (919)  
333-5722.



### Kite Festival Set At Topsail

Kite flying and sand  
sculpture contests  
will be some of the  
highlights of the Kite  
Festival, April 23, at  
the St. Regis Resort  
on Topsail Island.

The festival, which  
will run from 10 a.m.  
to 4 p.m., will feature  
contests throughout  
the day with no entry  
fee to participants.  
Admission to the festi-  
val is free.

For more informa-  
tion, call the Onslow  
County Museum at  
(919) 324-5008.

## WARNING

### Candy Presents Choking Hazard For Children

The North Carolina  
Department of Agri-  
culture's Food and  
Drug Protection Divi-  
sion is participating in  
a recall of a type of  
children's candy  
which poses a poten-  
tial choking hazard to  
infants and toddlers.

All lots of a candy  
called, "The Original  
Black Forest, Imported  
from West Germany,  
Gummy Pacifiers,"  
wrapped in plastic

bags and weighing  
5.2 ounces are being  
recalled. The candy is  
manufactured by Wis-  
soll-Wilth, Schmitz-  
Scholl, Milheim, A. O.  
Ruhr 1, Germany. The  
candy was recalled by  
the distributor, For-  
eign Candy Company,  
Inc., of Hull, IO.

"The Gummy Paci-  
fiers are being  
recalled because the  
product labeling and  
shape cause it to pose  
a potential choking  
hazards to infants and  
toddlers," Agriculture  
Commissioner Jim  
Graham said.

The recall action is  
nationwide, and a  
total of 31,212 pack-  
ages have been dis-  
tributed. It is not  
known how much of  
this product was dis-

tributed in North  
Carolina.

If consumers have  
purchased any of the  
Gummy Pacifiers, they  
are urged not to give  
them to infants or  
toddlers, but to return  
them to the place of  
purchase. Consumers  
with questions can  
call the NCDA Food  
and Drug Protection  
Division at (919)  
733-7366.

### New Aquaculture Guide Offered

A directory of fish  
farming businesses

throughout North  
Carolina was recently  
published by the  
North Carolina Agri-  
cultural Extension  
Service.

The 36-page publi-  
cation was compiled  
in response to grow-  
ing interest in aqua-  
culture at North Caro-  
lina State University.

Rice pointed out  
that U.S. seafood con-  
sumption has risen 25  
percent in the past  
five years and is  
expected to continue  
to increase. Rising  
consumption likely  
will mean that aqua-

culture will play an  
increasingly important  
role in the agricultural  
economy.

North Carolina  
rainbow trout pro-  
duction, which is cen-  
tered in the moun-  
tains, already accounts  
for annual sales of  
about \$8.5 million.  
Coastal areas of the  
state are particularly  
well-suited for aqua-  
culture with warm  
water fish species, Dr.  
Rice said.

The *The North  
Carolina Aquaculture  
Directory* contains  
(Continued on page 8)



## Mill Outlet

Room Size 100% Wool Oriental Design Rugs,  
Power Loom Woven, start at \$179.95  
Room Size Braided Rugs start at \$59.95



Contemporary



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the right.







## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

(Continued from page 7)

names, addresses and types of seafood products produced by aquaculture businesses across the state. Dr. Rice said the directory is the result of an extension survey done in an effort to determine the extent of aquaculture in North Carolina.

About 500 copies have already been distributed to North Carolinians with a special interest in aquaculture. Dr. Rice said the directory is available at no charge by writing Extension Aquaculture Specialist, Department of Zoology, NCSU, Box 7617, Raleigh, NC 27695 or by calling (919) 737-2741.

### Agency Offering Fuel Oil Rebates

Almost \$1 million is now available to assist North Carolina homeowners who are willing to make their homes more energy efficient.

The program, known as the "Great Fuel Oil Cash Rebate," will refund 25 percent of the cost of conservation measures taken by residents who heat with fuel oil and have homes at least five years old.

The one-time rebates are being distributed by the U.S. Department of Energy as part of a settlement collected from oil companies for overcharging consumers in the 1970s while federal price controls were in effect.



The funds are being distributed by the Energy Division of the N.C. Department of Commerce on a first-come, first-served basis until the money runs out, or until June 30.

State energy officials estimate that between 200,000 and 400,000 homes are eligible for the program.

The refunds, ranging from \$25 to \$350, are available for such items as additional floor, wall, attic and duct insulation and new flame retention burners for oil-fired furnaces.

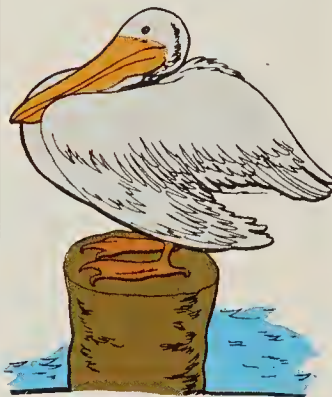
Homeowners can choose to do the work themselves or to have it done by professionals.

To receive a packet of information about the program, write to the Energy Division, N.C. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box

25249, Raleigh, NC 27611.

The packet contains a simple verification form that homeowners must complete after the improvements have been made on their homes. The forms are to be returned to the Energy Division for the rebate.

To qualify for the rebates, the improvements must have been done after Feb. 7, 1989.



### Jacksonville To Host Banks Party

Crafts, food and entertainment will be featured at the Banks Party, May 28, at the Pelletier House and New River Waterfront Park in Jacksonville.

The event, which will run from 1 to 5 p.m., will showcase numerous colonial crafts—shown at the historic Pelletier House.

For more information, call the Onslow County Museum at (919) 324-5008.

### At Harkers Island

## Electric Co-op's History To Feature "Scrapbook" Format

A book celebrating the 50-year history of Harkers Island Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) will soon be published especially for distribution to the co-op's consumer-members.

The book, which is to be distributed at the co-op's annual meeting May 6, will feature old photographs, co-op history and interviews with founding members and directors.

E. Travis Davis said the co-op's 50th anniversary was one of the major reasons for launching the project.

"With our anniversary coming up, we wanted to have something on file that would explain how the co-op got started and what it has meant to the community," he said.

Volunteer Karen Amspacher is coordinating the project for the EMC.

She's no stranger to book publishing because she was also the editor of the historical Harkers Island cookbook, *Island Born & Bred*, which has sold over 12,000 copies.

"The new book will be a scrapbook of the history of the EMC," she said. "It will have old photographs, excerpts from old board minutes, interviews with former employees, founding members and directors."

Amspacher and a team of other volunteers are currently conducting the interviews for the book. She expects the book to be between 75 and 100 pages when completed.

In addition, the book will also feature selected essays written by area 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The students are being encouraged to interview grandparents and other older citizens to get an idea of what life was like before electricity came to the island.

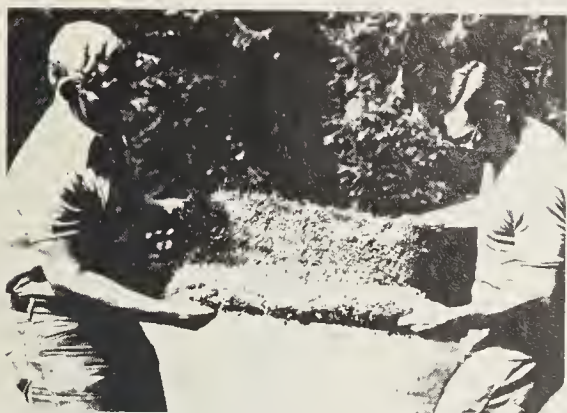
Davis said the book may be distributed to area school children to help them develop an appreciation for the EMC's history.

Plans call for one copy of the book to be reserved for every co-op consumer-member, with limited extra copies being available for purchase.

Chartered in January, 1939, Harkers Island EMC began operation in August of that year, installing 10 miles of distribution line to serve about 185 members. The EMC now has more than 41 miles of line and serves about 1,100 members in Carteret County.



# Two Grown Men Can't Pull It Apart! Zoysia Saves Time, Work & Money



So deep-rooted is Amazoy...it grows into practically indestructible turf.

*Amazoy is the Trade Mark Registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Z-52 Zoysia Grass*

By John T. Jackson

Every year I see people pour more and more money into their lawns. They dig, fertilize and lime. They rake it all in. They scatter their seed and roll and water it. Birds love it! Seeds which aren't washed away by rain give them a feast. But some seed grows, and soon it's time to weed, water and mow, mow...until summer comes to burn the lawn into hay, or crabgrass and diseases infest it. That's what happens to ordinary grass, but not to Amazoy Zoysia.

## "MOWED IT 2 TIMES," WRITES WOMAN

For example, Mrs. M. R. Mitter writes me how her lawn "...is the envy of all who see it. When everybody's lawns around here are brown from drought ours just stays as green as ever. I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in...Last summer we had it mowed (2) times. Another thing, we never have to pull any weeds — it's just wonderful!"

## LAWN WATERED ONLY ONCE

And from Iowa came word that the state's largest Men's Garden Club picked a Zoysia lawn as the "top lawn — nearly perfect" in its area. Yet this lawn had been watered only once all summer up to August!

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### NO SEED, NO SOD!

There's no seed that produces winter-hardy Meyer Zoysia. Sod of ordinary grass brings with it the problems of seed: like weeds, diseases, burning out, other ills. Save time, work, money. Plug in Amazoy.



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Amazoy exclusive! No one else can offer you this patented 2-way plugger. Saves bending, time, work. Light, rugged, invaluable for transplanting. Cuts away competing growth as it digs plug holes.

### WEAR RESISTANT

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Your Amazoy lawn takes such wear as cookouts, lawn parties, lawn furniture, etc. Grows so thick you could play football on it and not get your feet muddy. Even if children play on it, they won't hurt it — or themselves.

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*Based In Person County*

# The Percheron Hitch: A Family Affair

There were lots of attention-grabbers at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh last October, but none turned more heads than a team of six huge horses driven by two coachmen and pulling an unusual wagon loaded with bags of feed.

What the State Fair crowds were watching was the Percheron Hitch that's owned by the Lawrence family of Roxboro and sponsored by the Southern States Cooperative.

If you missed the hitch at the 1988 fair, take heart. The Percherons and their custom-built wagon will be back at the State Fair this coming October. And you might catch them at various other events between now and then. (See box, opposite page.).

Tommy and Ann Lawrence originally conceived the idea of putting together a team of large horses back in 1981. They were inspired by "Draft Horse Day" at the State Fair.

They were parents of several children and owners of a 50-acre fescue farm about two miles north of Roxboro—and thought a team would give them "something to do as a family."

Ann Lawrence says, "It provided chores for our teenage boys and it has taught them responsibility."

The first horses were not Percherons at all. They started with two Belgian mares. The Belgian is another breed of large draft horses.

Why such large horses? "They are so huge and strong, yet they are gentle and trusting," Mrs. Lawrence said.

The horses undoubtedly qualify as "huge." They stand almost six feet high, weigh from 1,800 to 2,000 pounds and have appetites to match. A day's ration will include 15 pounds of feed, 50 pounds of hay and 10 to 15 gallons of water.

All this makes the Percheron Hitch a costly operation. That's why the Lawrences looked around for a sponsor after building up their stable.



*"Chip" Lawrence grooms one of the huge horses that make up the Southern States Cooperative's Percheron Hitch, which is attracting attention at shows and parades throughout the co-op's six-state territory.*



*The Percheron Hitch and coachmen in parade finery. The horses are based at the 50-acre Person County farm of Tommy and Ann Lawrence.*

*—Charles Butcher/Southern States Cooperative*



In April, 1987, they teamed up with Southern States Cooperative in Richmond, which had recently expanded its five-state system of family and farm supply stores to include North Carolina.

The Lawrences consider Southern States a "natural partner" in the business. The Percherons help the farm cooperative promote their horse feeds, pet food and, of course, the entire coop itself. The popular team is very much in demand for parades and other occasions, and appears across the state and in such Southern States territories as Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Martin Phillips of Richmond, manager of horse and specialty feed services for the co-op, says, "This partnership is putting Southern States in places it has not been before." The cooperative works to provide 300,000 farmers with seeds, feeds, fertilizers, pet products and farm and home supplies at fair prices. Last year, sales of these items totaled more than \$645 million.

When you see the Lawrence Percheron Hitch, you see only six horses. They pull a custom-built wagon of the type used a half century ago. It was built by Amish craftsmen in Ohio. The wagon is loaded with bags of Southern States feed. The drivers seated high on the dray are "Chip" Lawrence, oldest of the family's sons at 19, and George Williamson.

Although George is an employee, he is "like one of the family," says Ann Lawrence.

Riding on the wagon is a golden retriever named Maddie—a dog food promoter.

But to provide six show animals, all five years old, takes far more horses. The Lawrences currently have 14, including some young colts who will grow up to be big and healthy like their dapple-gray parents. They have black Percherons as well, but the Lawrences prefer the dapple grays.

Fielding the hitch, which makes appearances from April each year until mid-December, takes a family effort. "Chip" is in charge of care and feeding. He and Scott Lawrence both work on the project. Young Matthew Lawrence is in training.

"Chip" and Jim Westbrook prepare the huge horseshoes needed, and actually do the blacksmith's work to shoe the gentle giants.

Other team players and employees are Bob and Pat Dickerson, Pennie Williamson and Jill Westbrook.

The logistics of putting this show on the road are impressive. The six-horse hitch and their



—Steve Ring, Southern States Cooperative

*"Chip" Lawrence and George Williamson prepare to take the Percheron Hitch on the road for a public appearance. The horses travel in their own eighteen-wheeler.*

wagon ride in an eighteen-wheeler, the modern era's prime form of freight carriers. Draft horses pulling wagons were prime freight carriers 80 or 90 years ago, and the drivers were known as teamsters.

The trappings also include such expected items as strong but decorative harnesses, portable stalls, a 40-foot trailer and a passenger van. The Lawrence family and their hired "kinfolks" handle the whole project.

When the Percherons are relaxing at home between shows and parades, they roam the same 50-acre fescue farm that the Lawrences call home. The horses graze the improved pasture, which is planted entirely in fescue. But the bulk of their food comes in bags.

Percherons originated in the French province (state) of Le Perch, just south of Normandy, where Allied forces went ashore on D-Day in World War II. They were brought to the U. S. during the 1800s and were used mainly for pulling wagons, as well as plows and other farm equipment.

The animals in which Tommy and Ann Lawrence take such pride are themselves champions.

Last August, at the Ohio State Fair, they won the men's Cart Class and Senior Showmanship. They placed second in Junior Driving and Unicorn competition, and third in the four-horse hitch contest.

Their first North Carolina appearance was a year ago—in Wilmington's famed Azalea Festival parade. They've been on the move ever since.

—Frank Jeter

## Six Area Appearances Set

The Southern States Percheron Hitch is scheduled for several appearances in North Carolina and adjacent areas in the next several months, according to Bill Day, merchandising manager of the cooperative's feed division, who coordinates all hitch appearances.

In April, it will appear at the famous Oak Ridge Horse Show at Oak Ridge, between Winston-Salem and Greensboro. Another April appearance will be at the Lexington, VA, Horse Fair.

May appearances include the Apple Blossom parade in Winchester, VA, and two North Carolina appearances: The N. C. Percheron Field Day in Winston-Salem and The N. C. Draft Horse Association Show in Yadkinville.

The team will also appear at the Roanoke Valley Horse Show at Roanoke, VA, in June.





## MAILBOX

### ***Medicare's Catastrophic Coverage Takes "Positive Steps" To Improve Health Care***

Thank you for publishing such an objective column about the Medicare Catastrophic Protection Act. (December "Horizon.")

I think your analysis of the program was a fair one. With health care costs rising so rapidly, something clearly had to be done to protect senior citizens who could not afford extensive additional insurance. In spite of its problems, I believe that the Catastrophic Protection Act does make several positive steps towards closing the gaps in our health care system. I expect this program to be the subject of intense debate this year.

*David Price*

*Fourth District Rep. David Price supported the Catastrophic Protection Act when it was adopted by Congress in 1988.*

### ***"Thanks" For Supporting Quilt Exhibition***

I was told by a number of our visitors that they read about our "Expressions of Liberty Great American Quilt Exhibition" in your publication. Thank you for your support!

*Gina L. Triplett  
Hickory Museum of Art  
Hickory*

### ***Seeking Navy Armed Guard Survivors***

My shipmate, Armed Guard World War II veteran Al Hodge of Lexington, sent me the wonderful article you published on the *USS Bismark* CVE-95 & VC 86 Reunion to be held in Charleston, SC, in October (January "Mailbox"). It is good to know that someone supports a World War II veterans group in their endeavor to locate their surviving comrades to join together once more in comradeship.

I have been in search of U.S. Navy Armed Guard Survivors of the flaming tankers, cargo ships, troop transports, etc. of World I and II and would appreciate a notice in the *Carolina Country* since we will be having our national reunion in Seattle, WA, June 21-25.

I have now located over 5,900 since June, 1982, when we started out with 52 names. Our

Armed Guard Special Unit totaled 144,970 men, with 1,810 casualties.

Secrecy and censorship during World War II hid the bravery of our gallant men and, as with other outfits, when the war was over, they were soon forgotten. Let us also offer a word of praise and admiration for our



Merchant Marine comrades. Many were on the same ship with us and helped pass and fire the ammunition and suffered over 6,750 casualties. They have just received Veteran status and we commend them for a job well done. They, too, will hold their reunion in Charleston next fall.

For more information on the Armed Guard Reunion, please contact me at 5712 Partridge Lane Raleigh, NC 27609-4126. Phone: (919) 876-5537.

By the way, we have located seven Armed Guard Crew of World War and have two survivors!

*Charles A. Lloyd*

*Lloyd is 1989 chairman of the U.S. Navy Armed Guard WW I & II Veterans.*

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# Crescent EMC Joins Consolidation Talks With 3 Other Co-ops

Crescent Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Statesville, which was established through the merger of two smaller electric cooperatives, has joined preliminary discussions regarding the possibility of consolidating with three other EMCs.

Crescent EMC's Board of Directors authorized the co-op's management to enter the talks about four weeks after plans for the discussions were announced by the other co-ops.

The other EMCs involved are Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir; Davidson EMC, Lexington and Piedmont EMC, Hillsborough.

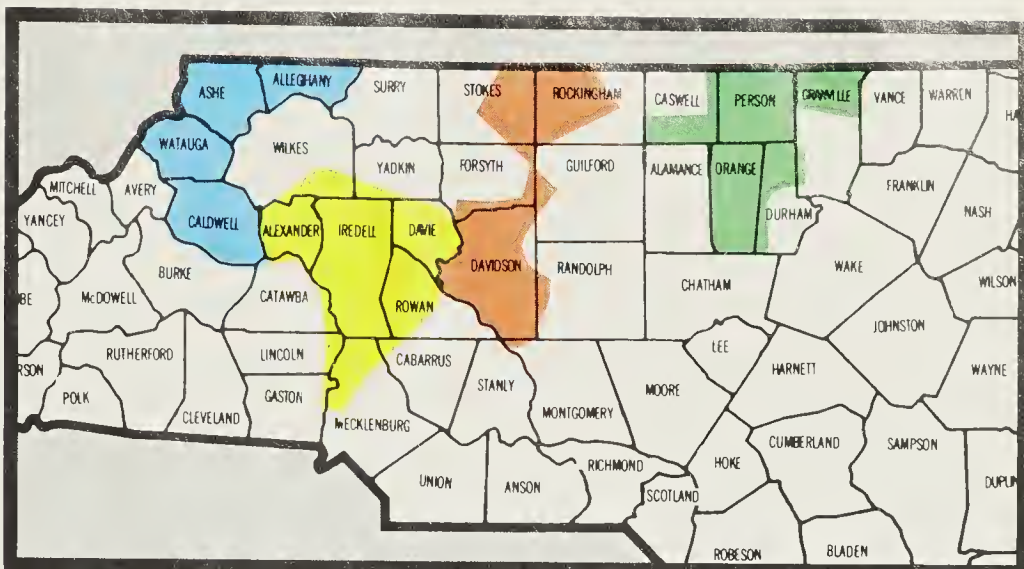
Crescent EMC Executive Vice President Donald D. Rice pointed out that the talks are to determine whether or not the co-ops wish to pursue the possibilities of consolidation.

He said, "The Crescent EMC Board of Directors is fully aware of its responsibilities to the co-op's membership to provide quality electric service at reasonable rates—rates that are competitive in the market place. Our board and management are continually exploring all alternatives in carrying out these responsibilities.

"Joint efforts with other cooperatives have the potential for providing great benefits for our membership in this time of constantly changing interest rates, rising generation costs and outside competition."

He added: "We can see several possible benefits by working as one cooperative. There are potential cost savings in eliminating duplication of efforts in many areas of the four cooperatives' operations. We could possibly respond better to emergencies with a consolidated effort. A larger, stronger cooperative could probably better meet future challenges in the areas of long-term financing, power supply and governmental regulations."

Rice emphasized that the talks will focus on all the various aspects of consolidation—the potential effect on the co-ops' consumer-members, employees and directors as well as the financial and legal implications of the move. Should the discussions lead to a full scale formal study of consolidation, Rice said, that process could take two or three years.



Shaded areas show the service areas of four electric co-ops that are considering consolidation.

Crescent     Blue Ridge     Davidson     Piedmont

A final decision to authorize consolidation would be made only through a vote on the issue by the consumer-members of the co-ops involved.

Crescent EMC was established in 1970 when Davie EMC, Mocksville and Cornelius EMC in Mecklenburg County merged and adopted the new name. The EMC currently serves about 34,000 consumer-members in Mecklenburg, Gaston, Cabarrus, Lincoln, Catawba, Rowan, Iredell, Alexander, Davie, Wilkes and Yadkin Counties.

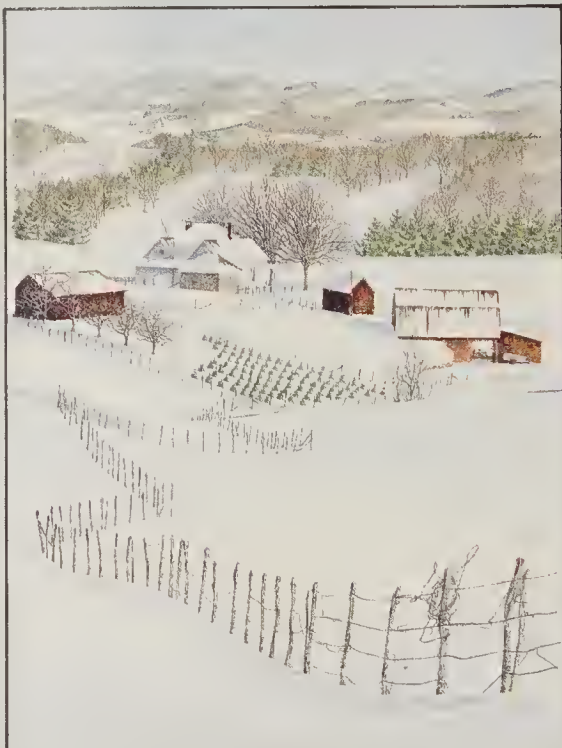
If the four EMCs were consolidated, the new cooperative would be among the largest in the nation, serving more than 126,000 homes and businesses in 29 counties.

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## Ashe County Fund-Raising Project Offering Richard Tumbleston Print

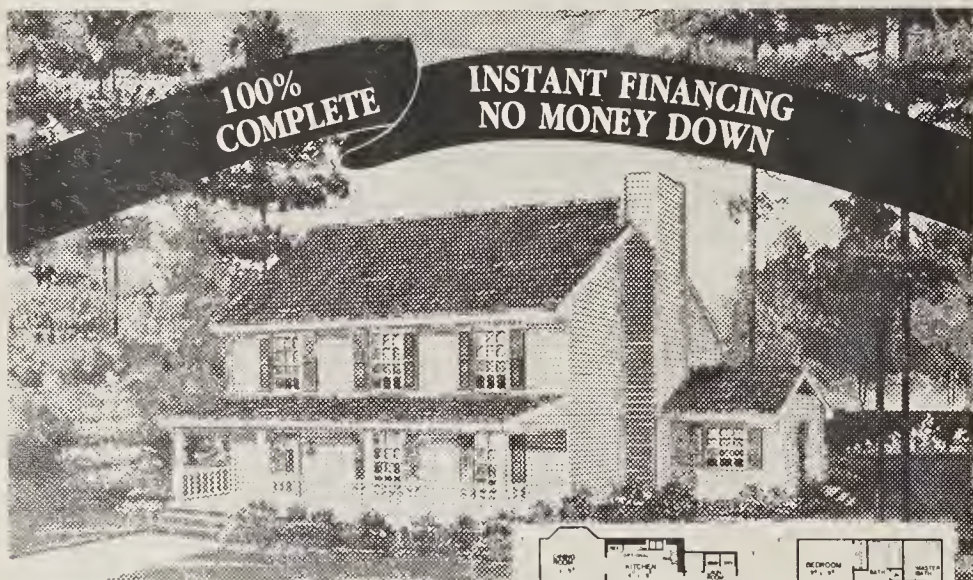
Signed and numbered prints by Richard Tumbleston, a Watauga County artist, are being offered for sale to raise money for the planned Ashe County Performing Arts/Civic Center.

The \$1 million center, to be built near the towns of Jefferson and West Jefferson, will serve as the host for theatre, dance, music and other cultural events in Ashe County.

The art work, reproduced from Tumbleston's original watercolor, "The Old Homestead," is being offered as a 9" x 12" print.

To order a print, mail a check or money order for \$34, including postage, to: Ashe County Performing Arts, P.O. Box 1102, West Jefferson, NC 28694.

For further information on how you can contribute to the Ashe County Performing Arts/Civic Center, write to the above address or call (919) 246-4483.



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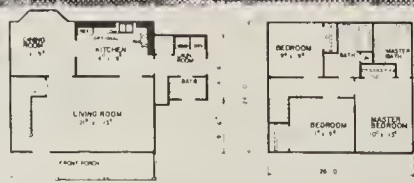
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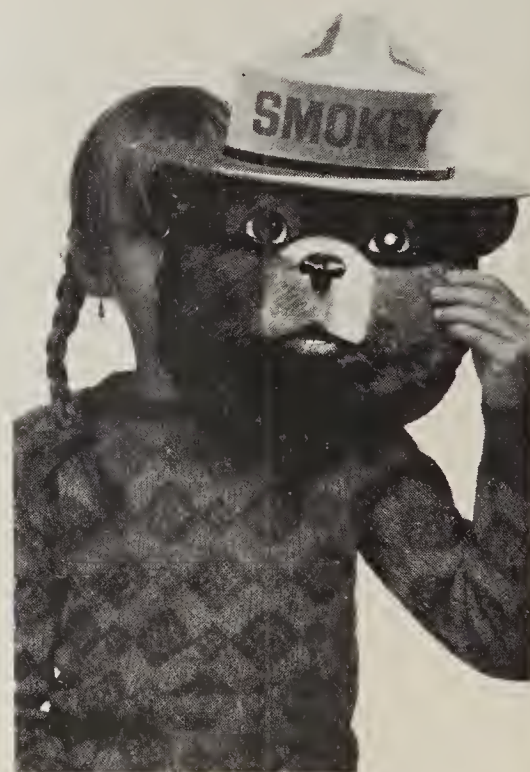
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# Co-ops Must Rise To Competitive Challenges

*In January, James M. Hubbard stepped down as executive vice president of North Carolina's statewide organization of electric cooperatives after 10 years in the post. He became director of marketing and organizational relations with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation in Washington, a lending institution that provides loans for electric and telephone cooperatives.*

*Before moving to the new post, Hubbard offered some observations about the nation's rural electric program and its future in an interview with Carolina Country Contributing Editor Dan Cook. The question-and-answer exchange here was excerpted from that interview.*



James M. Hubbard

**Q. How has the electric cooperative program changed over the past 10 years?**

**A.** The co-ops have spent the last 10 years becoming significantly more professional and proficient technically—in terms of internal operations. I think that process may have peaked and some of the systems are beginning to focus more outwardly, to become more consumer-driven. They are becoming more concerned about the consumers' needs and service requirements and the competitive marketplace we're in now.

We're just on the threshold of far more external competition than we've ever faced before. We've had the benevolent protection of a friendly federal banker, accommodating state regulations and territorial assignments. Some of those things are going to change over the next few years.

We need to find ways to become more efficient and competitive. We have a sort of "double-whammy" in terms of operating costs because of the co-ops' revenues per mile of line. That directly affects efficiency. Couple that with our high cost of power and it all makes it difficult to be competitive.

**Q. What do you see as the major changes that have occurred in the North Carolina rural electric program's statewide organization over the past 10 years?**

**A.** First of all, the magnitude of the statewide services program. We have grown from a modest-sized trade association and material supply co-op into a full-fledged statewide service organization.

We have moved fully into the power supply business and all other programs have become significantly broader and more sophisticated.

We now have professional trainers on staff and a training curriculum that addresses all identified audiences such as employees, managers and volunteer board members.

And we're much larger in terms of dollars, personnel and service.

**Q. What has prompted the growth that has occurred within the statewide organization over the past decade, as it has grown from 34 employees to almost 100?**

**A.** It's a reflection of the demands placed on the member cooperatives. We've had to respond to their needs to assist them in being more competitive and effective in the delivery of services to the consumers they serve, now numbering over half a million North Carolinians. Also, the marketplace has become increasingly competitive.

**Q. What do you think the future holds for the electric co-ops across the country?**

**A.** Over the next five to eight years, we face some very difficult challenges to maintain a reasonable, competitive posture. But I am convinced we can do it.

There will also be many other challenges in the coming years. Within North Carolina, one serious challenge we face is how to recruit, retain and motivate well-qualified, capable staff members to deliver the necessary services at an affordable rate.

We also need to follow through on initiatives in the power supply area. We need some changed relationships and modified contract arrangements to enable us to compete a decade from now. Work is under way to make that come about. It will take hard work but I think it can be done.

Nationally, with the new administration, I think we'll see an escalating rate of change in the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) program as we now know it. We'll find ourselves more dependent on our own resources. The REA will play a decreasing role. But we hope it will still be a significant role. We'll have to assume more responsibility for our own means on a national level.

There is also a real threat in the tax area against non-profit operations, including all types of cooperatives. The federal government will face increasing pressure for new sources of revenue.





## Annual Meetings Calendar

Date	Electric Membership Corporation	Time	Location
<b>March</b>			
17	Jones-Onslow, Jacksonville	Registration: 4:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	White Oak High School, Jacksonville
18	Edgecombe-Martin County, Tarboro	Registration: 12:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 2:00 p.m.	Edgecombe Community College, Tarboro
30	South River, Dunn	Registration: 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	Cumberland County Memorial Auditorium, Fayetteville
<b>April</b>			
1	Halifax, Enfield	Registration: 9:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:00 a.m.	Enfield Middle School, Enfield
14	Wake, Wake Forest	Registration: 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 7:30 p.m.	Wake Forest/Rolesville Senior High School, Wake Forest
15	French Broad, Marshall	Registration: 3:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 6:00 p.m.	Madison High School, Marshall By-Pass, Marshall
28	Piedmont, Hillsborough	Registration: 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	Orange High School Auditorium, Hillsborough
<b>May</b>			
6	Harkers Island, Harkers Island	Registration: 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 7:30 p.m.	Harkers Island School, Harkers Island
20	Randolph, Asheboro	Registration: 12:00 Noon Business Meeting: 1:30 p.m.	Southwestern Randolph High School, 6 miles southwest of Asheboro

nue. We are a prime target for efforts to dip into our margins for tax revenues.

The federal power marketing agencies, such as the Southeastern Power Administration, are going to be under closer scrutiny. There will be increasing pressure to price the power out of those projects at market rates rather than cost-based rates. There is a difference of 500 to 600 percent between those two numbers. We'll be hard-pressed to protect our interests.

### 2. What's ahead for North Carolina cooperatives?

1. North Carolina co-ops sorely need full access to the bulk power transmission system to enable us to deal with the bulk power market on an equal footing with the private power companies.

Also, for the first half-century of this program rural electric co-ops and their statewide organizations have enjoyed widespread goodwill that accrued to us from the accomplishments of the past. We electrified rural America.

As a result, we have a great reputation. It may be richly deserved but it is not going to be sufficient for the next half-century. We have to earn our own niche—based on what we do in terms of the price and quality of service we deliver. We must be ready to compete and be a contributing member of the corporate community. We must share our vision of what we can do to help rural North Carolina become prosperous.

That's really a microcosm of the challenges that face co-ops across the nation. But, I believe North Carolina is in a better position to respond to that need than many other states are.

Whether co-ops succeed in this role will depend on the quality of leadership at the local level and the statewide level.

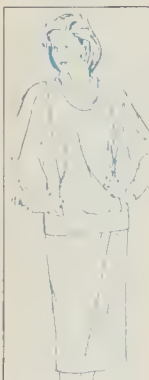
We must be innovative—we have to have a vision of what the program is and what it can become. We must be willing to take some risks and we must be willing to fail.

We also must be willing to let others take the credit and not worry about who carries the burden if we are to be a truly effective non-profit, consumer-driven organization.





## PINS AND NEEDLES



**5551:** Daytime dressing for KNITS ONLY. Top can be made with or without collar; skirt is elasticized. Misses Sizes 6 to 16. State HH(6-8-10-12) or NN(10-12-14-16) when ordering. \$3.75 PLUS \$1.25 P/H FOR EACH PATTERN ORDERED.

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**4149:** Capture the spirit of comfort in this two piece set. Top can be made with or without side-tie, with straight or elasticized sleeves; pants has elastic waist. Women's Sizes 34 to 48 included in pattern. \$3.75 PLUS \$1.25 P/H FOR EACH PATTERN ORDERED.

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**5559:** Instant wardrobe... Versatile separates to mix and match, shell top, elastic waist pants, jacket with collar or jabot. Misses Sizes 8 to 18 are included in pattern. \$3.75 PLUS \$1.25 P/H FOR EACH PATTERN ORDERED.

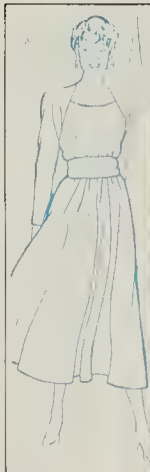
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**616:** Sew Now For Easter! 14" bunnies of soft or furry fabrics and polyester fill for bunnies, fabric scraps for clothes. Easy to follow directions and details. \$3.25 PLUS \$1.25 P/H FOR EACH PATTERN ORDERED.

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**5564:** Elegance becomes you. Sashed dress has as elasticized waist and full or slim skirt. Misses Sizes 6 to 20. State HH(6-8-10-12) or RR(14-16-18-20) when ordering. \$3.75 PLUS \$1.25 P/H FOR EACH PATTERN ORDERED.

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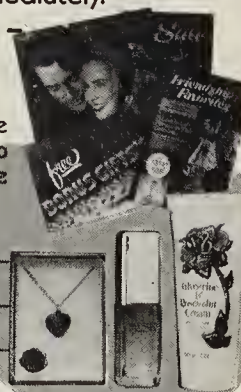
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## COUNTRY KITCHEN

*Through April 30*

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This recipe will appeal to many health-conscious readers because it features high fiber. The need for more fiber in the diet is one of many health issues that have caught the attention of North Carolina cooks.

If you're concerned about these issues, perhaps you'd like to share one of your tasty-and-healthy recipes through this column. For a limited time, we'll pay \$10—double our usual rate—for recipes of this kind that are selected for publication.

Mail your recipes to "Tasty-and-Healthy," *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. They must be postmarked no later than April 30.

### High Fiber Meat Loaf

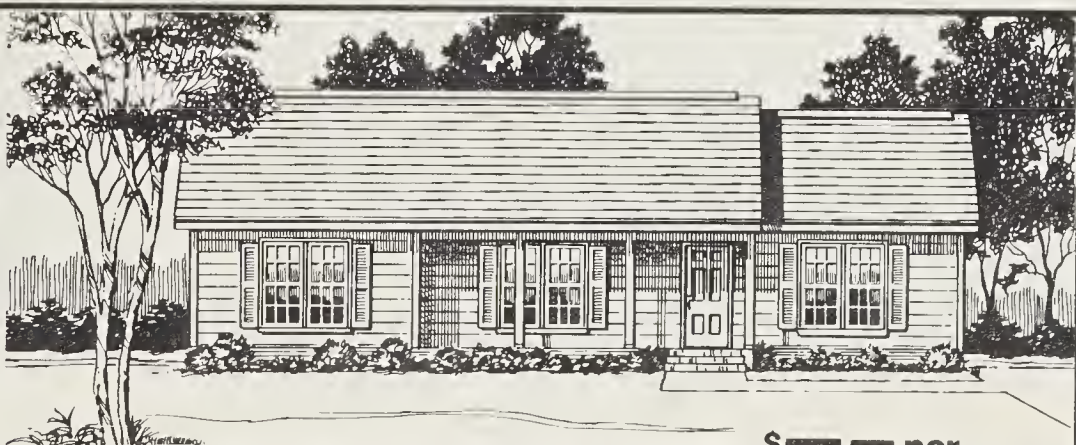
*Submitted by Mrs. Vickie Bradshaw, Morganton*

1/2 C. Kelloggs high fiber  
bran flakes  
1/2 C. warm water  
1 1/2 lbs. ground beef  
1 egg (beaten)

2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
1/4 C. finely chopped onion  
1/2 tsp. salt  
2 Tbs. wheat germ  
1/4 C. ketchup

Mix cereal and water, set aside. Combine beef, egg, Worcestershire sauce, onion, salt and wheat germ in bowl. Once cereal is softened, add cereal and water to beef mixture and mix. Shape into loaf and place in pan. Top with ketchup. Bake in 350 degree oven for one hour.

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# A FEW HIGH-FLYING TIPS FROM YOUR EMC.



It's that time of the year. Blustery March winds are blowing. Daffodils are popping up their heads. And kites are seen everywhere. Even on the tips of trees and power lines.

So this spring, when you're out flying a kite, remember these helpful tips from your local member-owned EMC. Gusty winds can blow up at any time. So fly your kite in an open area, away from trees or power lines that might entangle your string.

If your kite does get caught, never attempt to retrieve it. Kite strings can be powerful conductors of electricity, and retrieving a kite can cause serious accidents.

So, if you lose your kite, take a tip from us. And treat your friendly kite-eating tree, or power line, to a colorful meal.

*We're All In This Together.*





# Represents 33,000 Companies

## Institute To Promote Vocational Careers

Twelve North Carolina business associations representing 33,000 member companies, have announced plans for a joint program to recruit more young people into vocational careers.

"We're facing a critical shortage of skilled technicians and working people in North Carolina that is eroding the foundations of our state's economy," said Ken Mitchell, board chairman of the newly created Vocational/Technical Education Institute of North Carolina.

"Many of our skilled technicians are nearing retirement age, and there are few people to take their place. For example, the average bricklayer is 56.

"Society has attached a stigma to jobs that require using your hands and your head. We want to break down those barriers that discourage young people from going into what can be lucrative careers," said R. D. Locklear, Durham, a financial consultant who is vice chairman of the institute.

Locklear said that after about four years of training and experience, an average auto mechanic, contracting carpenter or bricklayer will earn between \$28,000 and \$35,000 a year.

Mitchell is executive vice president of the N. C. Home Builders Association.

Other business organizations sponsoring the institute are N. C. Automobile Dealers Association, N. C. Electric Membership Corporation, N. C. Restaurant Association, N. C. Association of Nurserymen, Brick Association of North Carolina, N. C. Associated General Contractors, N. C. Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, N. C. Association of Minority Businesses, N. C. Retail Merchants Association, N. C. Telephone Association and N. C. Industrial Developers Association.

Mitchell said the institute would be a business voice for improved vocational education training in North Carolina and support public information campaigns to make students and parents more aware of career opportunities in vocational jobs.

"Only about one-fourth of North Carolina students complete college. Many of the remain-

ing three quarters could be more productive members of our society, if they entered some of the vocational fields," Mitchell said.

The institute is a private, non-profit organization. Supporting funds will come from the member organizations and foundations.

Other board officers are Dean L. Spangler, chief executive officer of Boren Clay Products of Pleasant Garden, treasurer, and Gary Owens, assistant vice president of human resources for Carolina Telephone and Telegraph in Tarboro, secretary.

The State Advisory Council on Vocational Education was the catalyst for the formation of the institute, according to Mitchell.

For further information write or call the institute at 1303 Annapolis Drive, Raleigh, NC 27605. Phone: 833-4613.

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## A Tar Heel From "Texas"

When a group of Democratic Congressmen went to confer with President George Bush recently, they took him an assortment of good things to eat. Among them was a bottle of the famous "Texas Pete" hot sauce.

The Texas-minded President himself was the one who noticed that even though the red-and-yellow label proclaimed "Texas Pete," the sauce actually originated in Winston-Salem. The nationally distributed hot stuff is "put up" by T. W. Garner Foods in the Twin City.

It's a Tar Heel product, made entirely of quality ingredients from North Carolina. In fact it's one of the many products included in the "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" promotion of the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

While the "Texas Pete" name is used for several items from Garner Foods, the processor also sells a line of jams, jellies and preserves—also Tar Heel products—under its "Garner" label.

## Peach/Apple Kuchen: Either Plain or Fancy

The recipe below came to us from Renate S. Dahlin of Rt. 2, Raeford. She had sent a copy of it to a New Bern woman in response to her letter in *Carolina County* asking for help in finding a recipe for "Peach or Apple Kuchen."

Mrs. Dahlin is president of the women's advisory committee for the North Carolina statewide organization of electric cooperatives. She has been active for several years as a member of that committee and of the women's committee of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, Red Springs.

### Kuchen

*Apple or Peach*



#### Yeast Crust

- 2 1/2 Tbsp. vegetable shortening or margarine (or 4 Tbsp. butter)
- 3 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 C. flour (loosely packed)
- 3/4 to 1 pkg. yeast
- 3/4 C. milk (very warm—130 degrees)
- dash of salt (if shortening is unsalted)

Cream shortening and sugar. Add yeast and salt to flour. Alternate flour mixture and milk to shortening mixture and knead. When dough is smooth and non-sticky, set dough ball into bowl, cover loosely and let rise at room temperature, doubling in size. (Prepare filling at right.) When risen, punch down and knead again. Roll out to fit either a spring-form, 5" x 9" or pie crust pan. Place dough in pan sprayed with non-stick vegetable shortening.

#### Baking Powder Crust

- 2 1/2 Tbsp. shortening
- 3 to 4 Tbsp. sugar (level)
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- 2 C. flour (loosely packed)
- 3/4 C. milk (lukewarm)
- 1 egg (optional)
- dash of salt (if shortening is unsalted)

Cream shortening and salt together. Mix baking powder with flour through sieve and add to creamy mixture alternating with milk. Add egg (optional). Work dough on pastryboard until smooth. Roll out and insert into pan (no rising necessary). Cover with filling.

#### Alternate Crust

Same as baking powder crust except use 3/4 C. sour cream instead of shortening.

#### Filling

Apples—2 lbs. sweet baking apples. Peel, core and slice in 1/2" thick sections. Sprinkle with lemon and sugar and mix well. Cover and set aside until dough is ready. After dough is in pan, lay slices onto dough lengthwise or in a circle if pan is round. Apples may be sprinkled with raisins or cinnamon-sugar mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour or until crust is light brown.

#### Other Fillings

Peaches, strawberries, bananas, blueberries, plums and cherries.

If fresh fruits, such as peaches, blueberries, plums and cherries, are used, prepare as for apple kuchen above.

When using canned fruits or fresh fruits that do not need to be baked with crust—such as strawberries or bananas—cool crust, then layer fruit and prepare a gelatin, substituting the juice for water. Pour over layered fruit and let set. Serve with whipped topping for added taste.

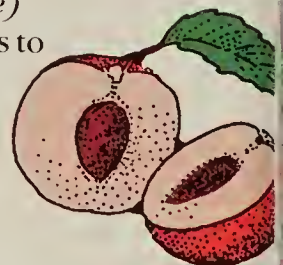
*Note:* Bananas are usually alternated with other fruits such as peaches and grapes.

#### Topping (for added taste)

To be used with fruits to be baked with crust.

- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 2 eggs
- A bit of grated lemon peel

Separate egg yolks from whites. Beat together yolks with sugar and half of sour cream, add lemon peel, flour and remainder of sour cream. Beat whites until peaks form, add to mixture. Spread topping over kuchen after it has baked for 1/2 hour, then continue baking.





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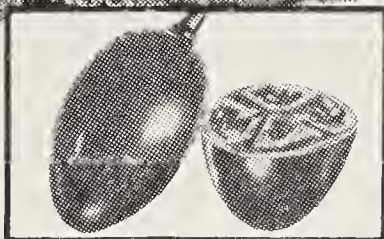
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Nothing beats fresh produce, so why continue to pay high supermarket prices for inferior tomatoes, when you can grow your own **TREE TOMATOES!** REMEMBER, WE SHIP MATURE PLANTS ... NOT SEEDS ... ORDER YOUR **TREE TOMATOES** TODAY! Full growing instructions included.

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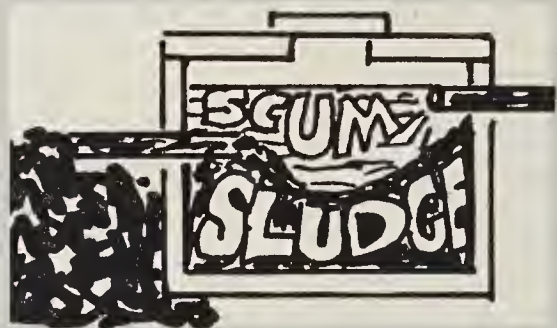
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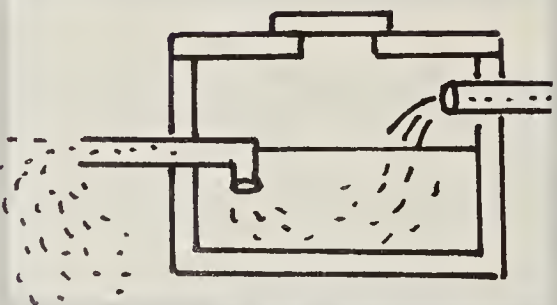
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# 14 Tar Heel Youths Win 15 Scholarships

North Carolina's 42-member delegation has won 15 scholarships valued at \$16,000 at the 57th National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

Susan Clark, daughter of Larry and Patricia Clark, Rt. 5, Morganton, won a \$1,000 scholarship in the achievement program and a \$1,000 good careers scholarship.

Named winners of \$1,500 scholarships were Elizabeth Kerns, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kerns, McLeansville, bread program; Laurie Lewis, daughter of Richard and Joan Lewis, Harrisburg, clothing and Kristie Briggs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Briggs, Jr., Reidsville, consumer education.

Winners of \$1,000 scholarships were Crystal Kirby, daughter of Wayne and Bonnie Kirby, Rt. 1, Lucama, beef; Charlotte Vick, daughter of Jerome and Dianne Vick, Rt. 1, Wilson, conservation; Nancy Bradley, daughter of John and Anne Bradley, Rt. 3, Tarboro, dairy foods; Randal Everhart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Everhart, Rt. 2, Pinewood, electric energy; Angela Hood, daughter of Graham and Vickie Hood, Warsaw, health; Lori Janine Moore, daughter of John C. and Catherine Moore, Summerfield, horse; Tricia Reilly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Reilly, Rt. 1, Mocksville, leadership; Nellie Sue Chamblee, daughter of Mrs. Nell Chamblee, Rt. 1, Hixson, safety and Shelley Lee Galliher, Rt. 1, Harmony, daughter of Edward Galliher and Jean Patterson, agricultural careers.

Tracy Silliman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jennie Silliman, Rt. 1, China Grove, won a \$500 good careers scholarship.

The Tar Heel 4-H'ers were among 279 national and regional winners who shared in \$284,000 in scholarship funds.



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*"Senior discounts" are much in evidence across North Carolina these days, as a wide range of businesses seek a competitive edge with the state's mature citizens.*

*Perhaps it's because older Tar Heels are good customers—or that business people want to build rapport with their more "experienced" customers.*

*In any case, these consumers are offered lots of special deals on a variety of goods and services.*

*This month's column describes some of these deals in detail.*

## Discounts Offered For Mature Consumers

If you can qualify for a "senior discount," you can save money on all kinds of purchases throughout North Carolina as many businesses offer lots of special deals for mature customers.

Recently an automobile dealer in a Piedmont city offered consumers 55 and over this incentive: a full year's supply of gasoline, based on 12,000 miles of driving, with each new car purchased. Maybe there was a slight catch. The gasoline bonus applied only to Oldsmobiles and Cadillacs, which are not considered to be economy cars. But enough fuel for 12,000 miles is something to consider.

On another front, an older Tar Heel went to obtain the professional services of a chiropractor. Informed of the fee for an "adjustment," he mentioned that he would be filing for Medicare coverage. (Some chiropractic services are covered by Medicare.) This brought the news that such services were half price for all patients who had Medicare. Since numerous visits were planned, this was welcome news indeed.

Senior citizens in North Carolina are eligible for a wide range of discounts, special prices and "extras" not available to younger folks. The age at which they start varies with the business. In some cases they begin at 50, some at 55 or 60, and some (such as Medicare rates) at 65, when this program begins for most people.

Almost any day of the week, an older customer can get a reduced price ticket at the movies or get a free drink if they purchase a particular item at a "fast-food" restaurant.

Cinemas offering these specials will normally let an older adult in for the same price as a youngster under 12. Some restaurants will have a special "Senior Citizen" listing on their regular printed menu. Paying less, this sometimes means a slightly smaller serving. One seafood place will show dinners of flounder, oysters, shrimp or other treats for \$6.50 to \$7.50. The same items, complete with hush puppies, slaw and french fries, cost \$4.50 on the "senior" plate—but you get slightly less seafood.

Some restaurants offer a straight discount, usually 10 percent. As mentioned, others will provide free beverages with a meal or sandwich purchase.

The "free beverage" discount can mount up. In one recent case, four older folks had breakfast while traveling. Their check was \$18 for the four. One customer asked the cashier if there was a senior discount. The cashier removed the charge for four servings of coffee and four juice orders, reducing the ticket from \$18 to \$13.50—a substantial saving.

How can an older person know whether a place of business has a senior discount? Special rates on a menu are easy to spot. And sometimes there will be a sign saying "Senior Club" or other such designation. On occasion, the cashier or clerk will mention it. But sometimes you must simply be bold enough to ask, as many folks do.

One easy way to find out about these discounts is to contact the Council on Aging or similar office in your community. The folks there can usually provide you with a list of local businesses that offer special bargains.

At times you need to be informed. In one large North Carolina city, there is a handy little convenience outlet—open at all hours—that is not far from a large department store. Aside from location, the two have something in common. The convenience store offers a 10 percent senior discount—but only on Tuesday.

The department store also offers discounts for members of their "Senior Club" each Tuesday. (Others offer the same thing on other days.) This particular store has a special requirement for its Tuesday discounts. You must have the store's own credit card and charge your purchases on that card. There is no limit on what you can charge.

How do you prove that you're eligible for senior discounts? Lots of times folks will take you at face value, including those who ask: "Are you eligible for our senior rate?" But at times you will need to produce your driver's permit, which will usually do the job, or your proof of membership in an organization for older folks. Council on Aging can help here.

Probably the most widely known senior group in the nation is the American Association of Retired Persons, or AARP. This group's membership card is widely accepted for discounts on motels and meals, as you travel around the country.





## HORIZON

You can obtain membership information by writing to this address: Membership Processing Center, AARP, P.O. Box 199, Long Beach, CA 90801.

North Carolina has its own statewide group, which offers many of the same types of services. You may obtain membership information in this group by writing: North Carolina Senior Citizens Association, Post Office Box 34, Fayetteville, NC 28302-0034.

Both groups charge fairly moderate annual dues, and both offer health insurance, auto insurance, travel and other services to members.

AARP even has its own prescription service, offering discounted rates through mail order. At most pharmacies will often match these discounts—and you can pick up your medication without waiting for home delivery.

## Tax Exemption Could Be Axed

A federal tax exemption that has benefited older homeowners for years could be eliminated as Congress seeks new ways to increase revenues.

Since 1978, you have been allowed to exclude \$125,000 (\$62,500 if you are married and filing separately) of your gain from the sale of your principal residence—but you can only do this once in a lifetime.

Here's how it works: Suppose you purchased a house years ago for \$30,000. The house grew in value. Years later, as you prepared to move into a retirement home, you sold the house for \$155,000—or less. You could exclude the entire gain from your federal and state tax returns for the year you sold the house.

Reports from Washington say the exemption could be axed. With no major group to lobby for continuing it, legislation may be written to eliminate it.

If you are concerned about this possibility, you might want to write or call your U. S. senator or congressman.

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## HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

With the days getting longer, gardening activity is on the increase. The urge to get out and plant is exceeded only by the vast variety of things available for planting. Finish planting woody ornamentals before tender new growth begins to appear. It soon will be too late for planting bare root trees and shrubs; container-grown and ball-and-burlap plants are readily available now.

### *Lawn Care*

In just a few weeks, it will be time to begin mowing established lawns. You'll want to cut the grass as short as possible; rake and remove all clippings and accumulated debris. Then apply a complete fertilizer at the rate of 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet of lawn area.

This is a good time to check your lawn mower to have it set



on "go" for the times ahead. New oil should be put in, and the gasoline motor given a tune-up so it will start at the pull of a cord.

### *Prune After Flowering*

After blooms have faded, you'll want to prune any spring-flowering trees and shrubs that have grown too large for the landscape position.

First remove dead or damaged branches and then prune as necessary to keep an appropriate shape and size.

You'll need to know something about the growth habits of the plant before you make the first cut. All plants are not pruned and trained the same way. For example, a flowering peach is pruned by cutting each branch back about the same amount. A forsythia is pruned by cutting at ground level about a third of the branches that have flowered.

### *Spring-Flowering Bulbs Need Food*

When spring-flowering bulbs have finished their colorful display, fertilize them with a little super-phosphate or bone-meal. This is gardener insurance to ensure quality blooms next year.

Bulb foliage should be removed only after it dies back naturally.

Nasturtium seed may be planted among the bulbs. Nasturtiums will grow into stocky plants that mask or screen the yellowing and browning of the bulbs.

### *Inspect New Growth For Signs of Pesky Aphids*

Inspect new growth on plants for new signs of the ever-troublesome aphid. This pest multiplies rapidly and can cause considerable trouble and damage before it is even suspected.



Wash off what aphids you can see with a forceful blast of water from the garden hose. Use an insecticide if necessary.

### *Time To Sow Vegetables*

As soon as the weather permits soil to be worked, sow seed of beets, carrots, leaf lettuce, radishes, kale, onions, spinach and turnips.



Wait about three or four weeks until the soil is warm before planting seedlings of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

### *Most Plants Need Complete Fertilizer*

Use a complete fertilizer on just about any and all plants that are a permanent part of your landscape. You'll want to give camellias and azaleas a feeding of special-m acid fertilizer just as they go out of flower; they'll benefit from light monthly feeding during summer months.

When fertilizing large shade trees, use about three pounds of fertilizer per 100 square feet of area beneath the branch spread.



### *Divide Summer-Flowering Perennials*

Early spring is a good time to dig, divide and replant summer-flowering perennials. This must be done every few years or most perennials will become overcrowded and sometimes suffer from "choking" themselves into decline.

Some dependable summer-flowering perennials are Shasta daisy, candytuft, gaillardia, poppy, phlox and hollyhock.

One popular perennial that can remain in place for many years without being disturbed is the peony. Propagate peonies by root division of established plants.



By Hank Smith

## Weed Control For Lawns

An application of pre-emergence herbicide will do much to control common annual broadleaf weeds such as chickweed, crabgrass, purslane and weedy

grasses.

Apply only to established lawns, following the manufacturer's instructions.

## Use Layering To Propagate Plants

Many ornamental plants can be propa-

gated by the old time-honored and time-tested method called layering. Easy-to-layer plants include azalea, forsythia, crabapple, rhododendron, flowering cherry and oriental magnolias.

By this method, a pliable branch is bent over to the ground and covered with soil. Leave five to ten inches of the tip of the branch exposed. Some gardeners like to make a slight scratch on the bark at that portion of the stem to be covered with soil.

The scratched area may be treated with a root-inducing hormone to speed the rooting process.

Others will actually make a slight cut in the stem and insert a toothpick or small pebble in the wound to keep the cut from growing back together. The wound is then sprinkled with rooting hormone.

Secure the wounded branch to the ground with a brick or rock. Water the soil and spread mulch over the spot to conserve moisture.

After one growing season, roots should have formed. Then, cut the rooted stem from the parent and plant where needed in the landscape.



## For Portable Color, Try Potted Rose Bushes

Ever try planting roses in pots in your garden? When they bloom, you can move them to locations where you want color and fragrance. Some gardeners who live in areas of poor soil that's not conducive to good rose culture often use container-grown roses. They can supply the necessary soil mix for healthy rose bush growth.

If you try pot-grown roses, buy two-year-old plants. Prepare a soil mixture of one-third peat moss or other organic material and two-thirds rich loam.

Large porous containers or ten-inch flower pots make good containers. Be sure the containers have good drainage holes. Pour about four inches of soil into each pot. Set one rose bush in each pot and pack more soil around the roots. Add soil until the top of the soil is about one inch from the top of the container.

Then dig holes in the garden area away from trees and large shrubs; set the pots in the holes and add soil around them with soil. Keep plants watered.

When bushes come into bloom, dig up the pots and move them to the patio or near a doorway. They make an excellent focal accent.

After rose bushes have flowered, you can knock them out of the pots and plant them in the garden. Or, leave them in the containers until next winter when you'll want to shift them to larger pots.

## • Festivals Guide •

If you have items to sell at festivals, this new book is for you! It'll help you book a schedule of such events across North Carolina. Lists dates, locations, fees, expected attendance and booking contacts. Send check or money order for \$9.95 (no COD orders) and your name, address and telephone number to: **State Festival Publications**, 1703 Hwy. 218 East, Monroe, N.C. 28110.

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## Tar Heel Firms Ride Bottled Water's Wave of Popularity

If your household tap water has turned off your taste buds, you're not alone.

Many American consumers are turning off the tap and filling their water glasses from bottles and jugs.

The trend has caught on with North Carolina consumers—and stirred several Tar Heel businesses to enter the market with their own brands of bottled water.

More than 600 brands of bottled water are available today to supply American consumers, who drink about six gallons a year per person on the average. Over the past decade, bottled water consumption has risen by about 300 percent.

In 1987, bottled water racked up annual sales in excess of \$1.5 billion nationwide.

A growing share of those sales involve water from North Carolina—some of it from mountain springs.

One producer using such water is Milkco Dairy in Asheville, a regional distributor of dairy products that has become one of the state's top producers of bottled water after introducing its Land O'Sky brand just two years ago.

Milkco's water, drawn from springs near Asheville, has proven to be popular with consumers as far away as Florida—a state where the company's dairy products are not available. Milkco ships only water to the Sunshine state.

"We've been delighted with the reception this new product has received," said Charles (Buddy) Gauthier, marketing director at Milkco. "We are particularly pleased that customers in Florida have built up such a quick demand for our spring water."

Another major bottler is Midas Spring Water in Charlotte, a supplier for various distributors that has seen total sales more than double in the past two years.

Larry Phillips, the firm's president, says the growth is easy to understand. "Spring water has been big in other parts of the country, but it's just reaching North Carolina," he said. "People are just waking up to the fact that there are things in their water they're not too fond of—taste and otherwise."

According to government regulations, bottled water can be called "spring" water only if it is derived from a single source which is not part of the public water supply.

Bottlers say such water has a clean taste that's due in part to ozonation. Ozonation works like chlorine to kill harmful bacteria. However, it does so without leaving an aftertaste or odor.

Sold most frequently in gallon jugs, spring water costs from 69 cents to a few dollars a gallon.

That may sound expensive, but bottlers point out that state and federal regulations governing the sale of water establish strict standards. As a result, bottling and selling water isn't as cheap as it may seem to be.

"A lot of people are unaware of the costs involved," said Dale Andrews, vice president of sales for Triton Water Company in Burlington. "They think you can just fill up a jug. But unless you have the volume, you can't make it in this business."

In all, there are about 10 distributors of spring water across the state. While some use water from springs in the state, others use water from springs in Virginia—or as far away as Arkansas.

Whatever its source or brand, bottled water is finding favor with a growing segment of U.S. consumers.

Which tastes best?

That question could set off a dispute among bottled water fans that would rival the Coke-vs.-Pepsi "cola wars."

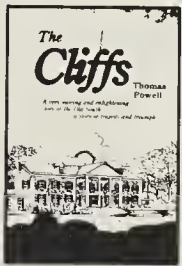
Some consumers may find any brand of spring water better than the stuff they get from the tap at home, but others seem to settle on a particular flavor and stick with it.

The bottlers, of course, each have an obvious favorite—and are quick to sing the praises of their own products.

For example, Ernest Morgan, president of Table Rock Springwater in Morganton, said his product compares favorably with any he's sampled anywhere in the world.

"I've sampled many types of bottled and tap water around the world. I found none which equalled the clean, sweet taste of the water from our spring."





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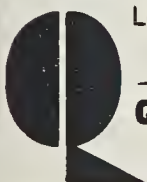
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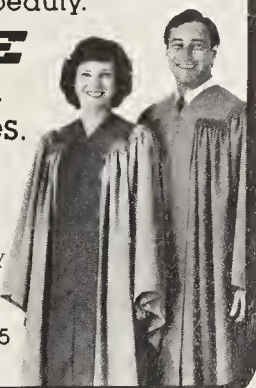
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# TOMATOES AS BIG AS HONEY DEW MELONS

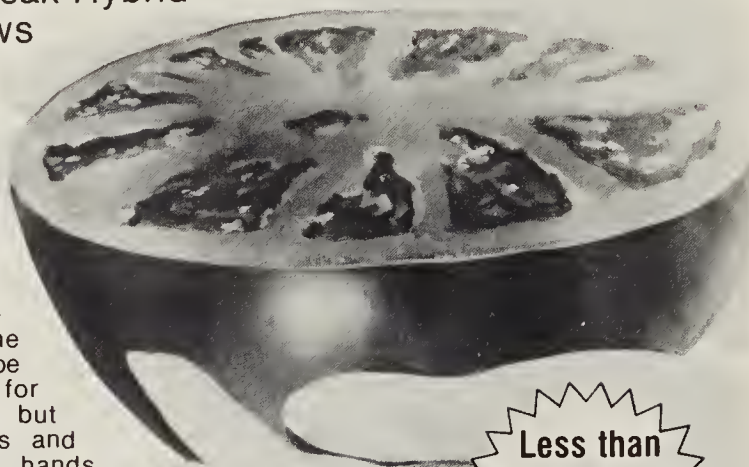
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New Supersteak Hybrid Tomato Grows Super-Size Delicious Tomatoes.

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helicopter picks up a pole that will become part of a new transmission line to serve portions of southern Macon County. The chopper was used because the area's terrain is so rough that vehicles could not reach the construction site. The transmission line, a joint project of Haywood EMC, Waynesville and Nantahala Power and Light Co., was built to improve reliability of service for about 1,000 EMC members and about 350 Nantahala customers.

*Serves Haywood EMC Members*

## Helicopter Places 53 Poles For New Transmission Line In Macon County

Haywood Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Waynesville, recently turned skyward in building a 15-mile, 69-kilovolt transmission line in Macon County.

Facing rough terrain, Haywood EMC used a helicopter to place 53 poles in a little more than half a day as part of a project to provide more reliable service to about 1,000 members in the Scaly Mountain, Clear Creek and Clayton areas.

Norman Sloan, the EMC's manager of operations and engineering, said the project is a joint venture between the cooperative and Nantahala Power & Light Company, which serves parts of the area. Projections for growth in the area had shown that the present transmission system would soon be inadequate," he added.

"We realize that the Scaly area has been in dire need of a reliable power source. The new transmission line is just so much more reliable than the line we had."

The \$2.5 million project took almost three years to complete since the EMC had to consider environmental and historical concerns in the area. The project also included a new substation in Scaly.

"Helicopters proved to be more economical than taking the poles in by hand," Sloan said. "The terrain was too rough for us to get any vehicles in."

Early morning fog delayed the helicopter's start until 11:30 a.m. However, by sundown, all 53 poles were in place.

"We were finally able to get everything organized and the crews were able to get a pole set about every four minutes. Despite our delays, we were happy with the outcome. It would have cost more and taken much longer to build the line if we hadn't used the helicopter. Setting poles in an area like this is not easy."

The transmission line and substation were put into operation in late December.

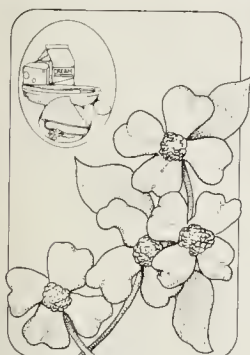
Haywood EMC serves about 15,000 consumer-members in Haywood, Buncombe, Transylvania, Jackson and Macon Counties.

## Co-op Cooking

A cookbook that features some of the best recipes from across North Carolina is still available through the mail—but copies are limited.

Compiled by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives Women's Advisory Committee, the spiral-bound book features favorite recipes from employees and volunteers with the state's electric cooperatives.

Copies are \$7.20 (\$5.95 for the book, \$1.25 for postage) and can be ordered at the address below.



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Perry Smith, owner of the Crestview Apothecary, says "SkinTech" is the most effective product (prescription or non-prescription), he has seen in his 38 years of being a pharmacist. He tells of one experience recently of a crying two-year old being brought into the store with a badly burned hand. She had put her hand to a wood stove--the hand was a solid blister. He immediately applied a good coat of "SkinTech". About (5) five minutes later the child was asleep on her mother's shoulder.

Rev. Doug Newton in Pensacola says he used it on his grandchild who had a bad diaper rash problem and after trying a dermatologist's formula with no success, he used "Skin-

Tech", said Smith. The preacher told me the child was in good shape within a few days and had completely healed in a week.

The results for arthritis have been just amazing. There are numerous people in the Crestview area that buy "SkinTech" for that reason alone.

Mrs. Ola Scott's hand and arm were badly swollen after being broken in a fall. Most of the swelling and discoloration were gone in about a week after using "SkinTech".

Ruth DuBose got unexpected relief from arthritis pain in her wrists and hands after using "SkinTech" for age spots. The pain was gone after a few nightly applications and has not been significant since. She also experienced total relief of pain from a badly sprained ankle after two days.

Howard Garrett's leg was severely infected after being finned by a cat fish. One hour after "SkinTech" was applied, the red streaks radiating from the wound were gone; three days later his leg was well.

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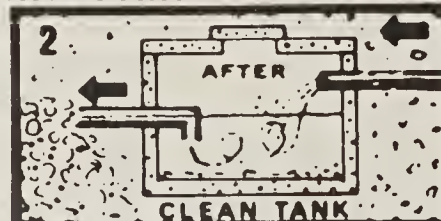
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## BOOKS

*The Floatplane Notebooks* by Clyde Edgerton. Algonquin Books, Chapel Hill, in association with Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, TX, 1988. \$16.95.

Albert Copeland is building a floatplane powered by chainsaw engines. Despite the skepticism of his family, he regularly tries to fly it at Lake Blanca. Undaunted by failure, he works on his project for years, recording his experiments and bits of family history in a set of notebooks.

Albert's son Meredith and his nephew Mark are inseparable. When they are not up to mischief, they sit for hours in the floatplane pretending to be bomber pilots. They come of age in the 1960s just in time to go to Vietnam in 1970.

The family is close—swapping tales about earlier Copelands and traveling to Florida every Christmas to hunt and to visit relatives. Every May the clan gathers to clean the family graveyard, a lovely place shaded by an ancient wisteria that was planted by a Copeland bride in the 1800s.

Families, we learn as the novel unfolds, can be as beautiful as wisteria, splashing purple against the gray of an early spring forest. But they can also suffocate as surely as the graveyard wisteria chokes the trees supporting it.

Edgerton chooses to tell the complex story of the Copelands from the 1950s through the Vietnam era from the perspective of the children who grew to adulthood during those years. Each member of that generation takes a turn revealing conflicts.

The author, who proved his mastery of dialogue in his earlier novels *Rainey* and *Walking across Egypt*, demonstrates his ability to make his characters real by changing his style to fit the personality of each narrator. As the children grow, experiencing both love and conflict within the family, their writing styles and points of view change accordingly.

Edgerton was less successful here in his use of the wisteria vine as a narrator. The vine objectively reproduces the scenes that occurred within its shade, providing an interesting contrast to the passionate viewpoints of the human narrators. But it makes for a rather artificial literary experiment.

Edgerton is quite effective in using humor, which often made me laugh aloud. However,

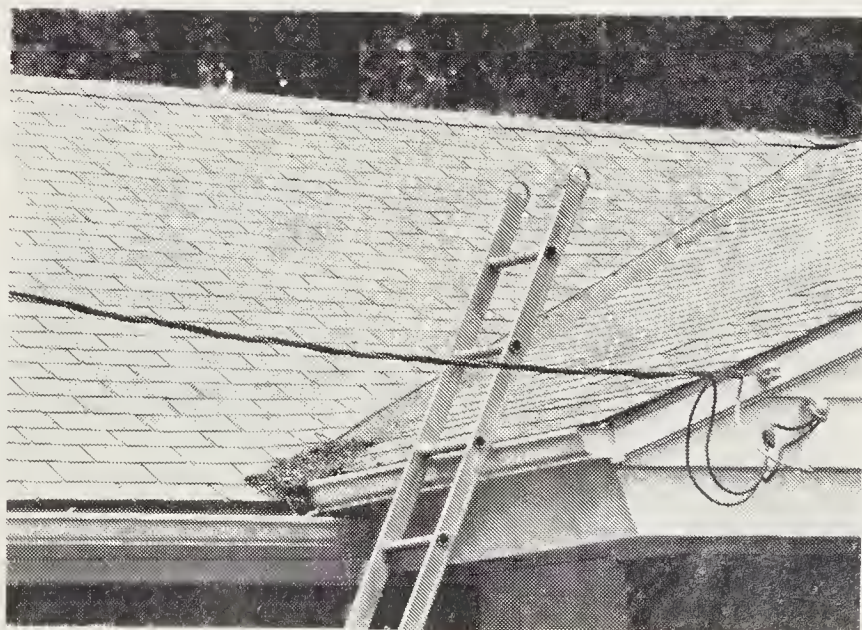
readers familiar with Edgerton's usual style of broad humor should be forewarned that the tone of this book is darker than his earlier work.

Although *The Floatplane Notebooks* is quite different from his other books, it compares favorably to them.

In an age when plot and characters frequently seem interchangeable from one book to the next, Edgerton's work stands out. Since I first read this novel, I often find myself thinking about the people I met within its covers. Because they are more complex than most fictional characters, I cannot forget them. Because I've heard each story from several points of view, I'm still sorting through layers of truth to reach my own conclusions.

In this volume Clyde Edgerton offers more than a few hours of entertainment. He has written a work that will endure.

—Phyllis Hacken Johnson



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## TV Special Spotlights Farmers

A half-hour program focusing on the soybean and cotton industries  
will be televised by two North Carolina television stations during March.

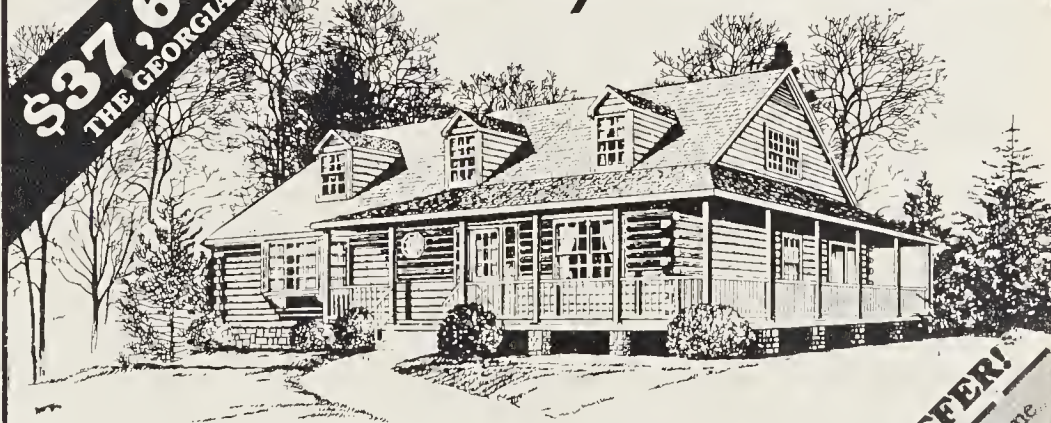
"American Farmers: Associating for Success," sponsored by BASF Cor-  
poration and Elanco Products Company, will air on 65 stations around the  
country as part of National Agriculture Week, March 19-25.

The program will be broadcast by WRAL-TV Channel 5, Raleigh,  
March 18 at 6:30 a.m. and by WITN Channel 7, Washington, March 19 at  
1:30 p.m.

A segment of the program will feature Hardee's fast food restaurants'  
switch from palm and other tropical oils to a soybean/peanut oil blend in  
their food preparation. The show also includes a tour of the Cotton Incorpo-  
rated Research Center in Raleigh.

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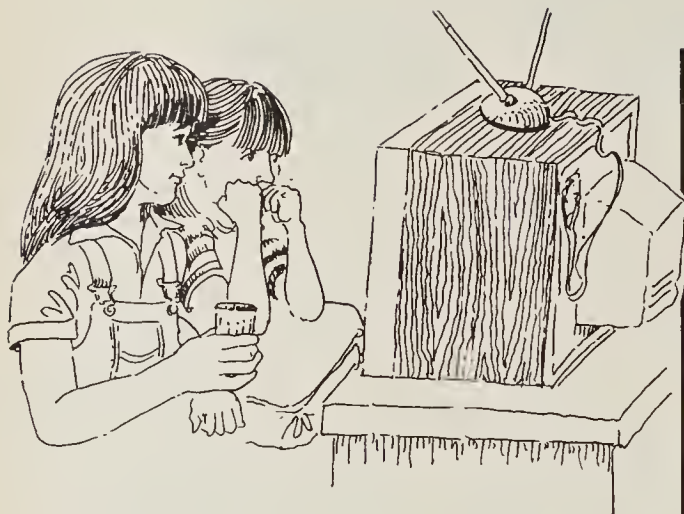


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## TV Spot Spoken Here

I'm no longer surprised to hear our two girls singing jingles or quoting television commercials almost verbatim. After all, they're exposed to plenty of them during their daily "couch potato" rituals.

In fact, my wife and I rather enjoyed their version of the fast food restaurant's spot about the customer who placed his order at the drive-in window even though he wasn't driving a car. Melissa, 12, portrayed the customer and five-year-old Ellen had the role of the cashier.

They also did a fine job on the drama involving a dispute among items in a refrigerator over whose aroma needs to be covered more securely: "Don't get mad. Get Gladloc!"

Still, I wasn't prepared for an exchange I had with Ellen one recent morning.

She'd planned to take a "pickled" frog from Melissa's microscope set for "show-and-tell" hour at her pre-school.

As she was getting dressed, I reminded her that she needed to find ol' "Froggy" and bring him downstairs so he'd be ready for the trip to school. She made it clear that she didn't think I should be using a name of that kind for the little creature's remains.

As expected, he was nowhere in sight when we were about to walk out the door.

"Go back upstairs and get 'Froggy'," I said.

"Oh, Daddy," Ellen said, impatiently. "Don't you know he's dead! Read my lips: He's dead, dead, dead!"

## Postscript Potpourri

We need to pass along a few postscripts on items that have appeared in the magazine over the past several months:

- When we wrote about *The Boy Toy* by Phyllis Hacken Johnson in the January issue, we pointed out that the book featured illustrations by Lena Shiffman. However, we failed to mention that the book's full color cover was designed by Martha Lange of Durham, using some of those illustrations.

The book, published by Lollipop Power Books in Carrboro, is the first to be issued by Lollipop since 1984. The book publisher was taken over by Carolina Wren Press in Durham in 1986. Carolina Wren is an affiliate of the Durham Arts Council.

Lollipop Power Books specializes in non-sexist, multi-racial children's books. For a free catalog of Lollipop Power titles, write to Lucy P. Lewis, Assistant to the Editor, P.O. Box 277, Carrboro, NC 27510.

- We called your attention to plans for the World Monopoly Championship in London last fall, but we've never reported the outcome of the competition.

Ikuo Kiyakuta, Japan's champion, won the contest after two grueling days of play. He'll hold the title for the next three years.

The champion accumulated assets of more than \$10,000 to emerge as the winner of a final elimination game after two hours and 22 minutes. The champion received \$15,140 (the real money equivalent of the total dollars in the Monopoly game) and a personal computer from Parker Brothers, makers of the popular board game.

Other finalists were Ken Shabtay of Israel, Roger Edblom of Sweden, Carmen Santiago of Puerto Rico and Tony Andrews of New Zealand. U.S. Champ Gary Peters of Hallandale, FL, didn't make it to the finals.

- We've written a few items about old light bulbs over the past several months, prompting readers to write about their own antique bulbs. Now, we've learned that the *Guinness Book of World Records* says the longevity record for bulbs is held by a five-watt carbon lamp in the Livermore, CA, Fire Department. The bulb was made in Ohio and installed in 1901. It was still burning in 1988.

- In 1987, I wrote a couple of items about the late Walter Spearman, the colorful journalism professor who became a Tar Heel legend long before his death at age 79. Within weeks after he died, the School of Journalism at UNC-Chapel Hill began a fund-raising campaign to endow the Walter Spearman Professorship as a "lasting tribute" to his memory.

The campaign's goal of \$333,000 has now been met, including pledges that will be paid over the next two or three years, according to Dean Richard R. Cole.

In addition, he said, "the state of North Carolina has placed \$167,000 in matching money in escrow for the professorship, making the eventual total endowment half a million dollars. Walter was one of the great professors at UNC-CH, and it is only fitting that a professorship be named in his honor."



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## Home/Garden Symposium, Tour Set In Charlotte

New York designer Alexander Stoddard will address the Third Annual Home and Garden Symposium in Charlotte, April 12, at Quail Hollow Country Club.

The *McCall's* columnist and author will offer her strategies for living a saner, simpler and more elegant life. Her eight books include *Living a Beautiful Life* and *Living Beautifully Together*.

The symposium is one of two special events scheduled in Charlotte in April. The 36th Annual Mint Museum of Art Home and Garden Tour, April 13-16, will feature an array of homes, ranging from romantic Sussex farm-houses to a stately 1912 "spec house."

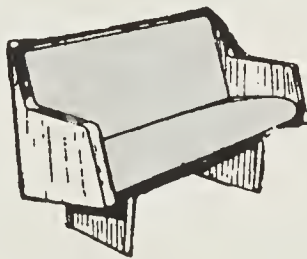
Tickets for the symposium are \$30. Mail orders should be mailed to Mrs. R. Gregory Parsons, 8521 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226. Make checks payable to Home and Garden Symposium.

Tickets for the tour are \$9 in advance, \$10 at the door.

For more information on the tour, write or call the Mint Museum at 2730 Randolph Road, Charlotte, NC 28207. Phone: (704) 337-2000.

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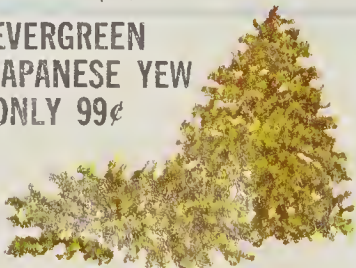
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